

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0224

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UY

SUBJ: VIEWS OF URUGUAYAN FONMIN ON MEXICO MFM

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH, ARA

1. SUMMARY: URUGUAYAN FONMIN JUAN CARLOS BLANCO HAS ASKED THAT WE TRANSMIT SOME OF HIS VIEWS REGARDING THE MEXICO MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS FEB 20-23. BLANCO UNDERSTANDS MEXICAN FONMIN RABASA IS ABOUT TO VISIT THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON AND PRESUMES PREPARATIONS FOR THE MFM WILL BE DISCUSSED THAT THAT TIME. BLANCO SAYS HE HAS TAKEN STEPS TO GET THESE VIEWS ACROSS TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AS WELL.

2. FONMIN BLANCO'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN IS PROCEDURAL, BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THE KINDS OF PROCEDURES FOLLOWED AT THE MFM WILL GO FAR TOWARD MAKING OR BREAKING IT. BLANCO IS DEAD SET AGAINST THE PATTERN OF SPEECH-MAKING TRADITIONAL AT INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCES. BY NOW, HE SAYS, EACH OF US KNOWS PRETTY WELL WHAT THE OTHERS THINK ABOUT THE HEMISPHERE'S ISSUES OF THE DAY. MORE RHETORIC ON THOSE ISSUES IS A WAST OF TIME.

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3. BLANCO DISLIKES THE IDEA THAT EACH AGENDA TOPIC BE

ASSIGNED TO A SPECIFIC COUNTRY OR COMMITTEE OF COUNTRIES TO BE EXPOUNDED AT THE MFM. IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVEN THE MOST OBJECTIVE FONMIN TO MAKE A FORMAL PRESENTATION ON ANY AGENDA ITEM WITH WHICH ALL THE OTHER FONMINS WILL AGREE ENTIRELY, SO THAT SUCH A PRESENTATION IS LIKELY TO BE FOLLOWED BY A STRING OF QUALIFICATIONS, EXCEPTIONS AND ADDITIONS BY OTHER FONMINS - IN OTHER WORDS, A SERIES OF FURTHER SPEECHES.

4. IF, HOWEVER, THE DECISION IS MADE TO DIVIDE THE AGENDA ITEMS AMONG GROUPS OF COUNTRIES FOR PRESENTATION AT THE MFM, URUGUAY PREFERS TO BE ASSIGNED TO AGENDA ITEMS ON OAS REFORM AND/OR ECONOMIC COOPERATION. BLANCO CONSIDERS THESE TWO THE AGENDA'S MOST VITAL ITEMS.

5. TO BLANCO THE IDEAL PROCEDURE FOR THE MFM WOULD BE FOR THE FONMINS TO SIT AROUND A FIRE WITH GLASS IN HAND AND DISCUSS PROBLEMS WITH TOTAL FRANKNESS AND INFORMALITY. HE RECOGNIZES THAT IDEA IS NOT PRACTICAL WITH 24 FONMINS BUT HOPES THE PROCEDURES ADOPTED WILL TEND IN THAT DIRECTION. IF FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS TO TOPICS ARE NEEDED, PERHAPS THEY SHOULD BE MADE SIMPLY BY FONMIN RABASA AS HOST. DURING THE MFM, BREAKFASTS, LUNCHEES, DINNERS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE UTILIZED FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS OR INFORMAL MEETINGS OF SMALL NUMBERS OF FONMINS, BOTH WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND AMONG THE LATINS THEMSELVES.

6. BLANCO BELIEVES SECRETARY KISSINGER HIMSELF CAN DO MUCH TO SET THE TONE OF THE MFM AND BASES HIGH HOPES ON WHAT HE UNDERSTANDS TO BE THE SECRETARY'S OWN STYLE OF OPERATION. IF, FOR INSTANCE, THE SECRETARY FROM THE OUTSET SHOWS A PREFERENCE FOR FRANK AND FRIENDLY DISCUSSION OF EACH AGENDA ITEM WITHOUT EMBELLISHMENTS AND WITH A MINIMUM OF FORMALITY, BLANCO EXPECTS MOST OR ALL OF THE OTHER FONMINS TO FOLLOW SUIT.

7. WITH REGARD TO SUBSTANCE, BLANCO IS WARY OF AROUSING FALSE EXPECTATIONS ABOUT ALL THAT THE MEXICO MFM MAY ACCOMPLISH. HE CONSIDERS IT TO BE A NATURAL OUTGROWTH OF THE BOGOTA
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MEETING AND THAT FROM IT IN TURN SHOULD EVOLVE A USEFUL FUTURE CONFERENCE AT ATLANTA. THE VERY FACT THAT THESE MEETINGS ARE HELD REPRESENTS A SUCCESS IN VIEW OF THEIR CONTINUING CONTRIBUTION TO INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE.

8. FINALLY, AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE BENEFICIAL DIALOGUE THAT THE MEXICO MFM MIGHT PRODUCE, BLANCO SAID IT WOULD BE OF GREAT INTEREST TO HEAR FROM THE SECRETARY A CANDID EXPOSITION OF THE PLACE WHICH LATIN AMERICA NOW OCCUPIES IN UNITED STATES GLOBAL STRATEGY. BLANCO HASTENED TO ADD

THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE IN MIND THE OFTEN DEBATED ISSUE
OF WHETHER THE US IS PAYING ENOUGH ATTENTION TO
LATIN AMERICA. THAT ISSUE BLANCO CONSIDERS BESIDE THE
POINT IN THIS ERA OF SUPPOSEDLY MATURE INTER-AMERICAN
RELATIONSHIPS. URUGUAY AND, BLANCO IS SURE, AT LEAST
SOME OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COQHNTIES ARE NOT LOOKING FOR PATS ON
THE HEAD BUT FOR A SOBER AND HONEST ASSESSMENT OF WHERE THEY
STAND NOWADAYS WITH THEIR POWERFUL ASSOCIATE, IN ORDER TO BE
ABLE, WITH NO OFFENSE GIVEN NOR TAKEN, TO PLAN NATIONAL
POLICIES IN THEIR OWN RESPECTIVE NATIONAL INTEREST.
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